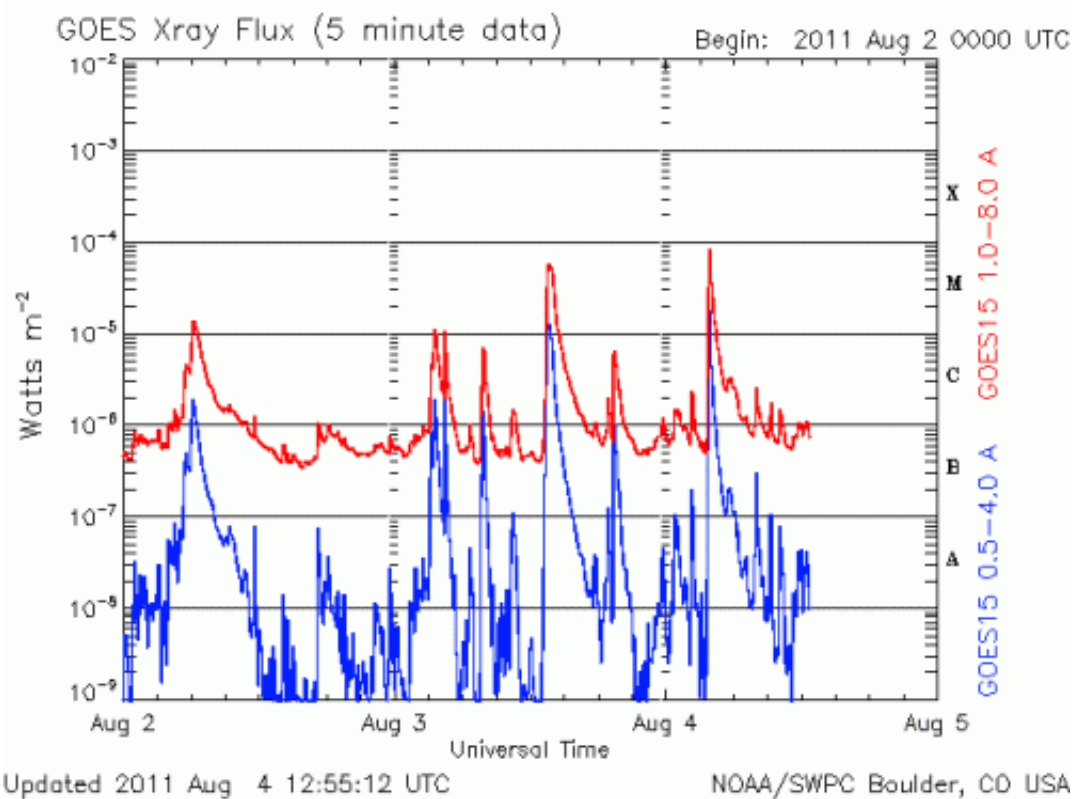


Solar storm heading our way

August 4 2011, By Nancy Atkinson



This plot shows 3-days of 5-minute solar x-ray flux values measured on the SWPC primary GOES satellite. Credit: NOAA/SWPC

Early yesterday, (Aug 3, 2011) two active regions on the Sun, sunspot 1261 and 1263 unleashed solar flares, which was captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. The video shows an M6 class flare from 1261 in a couple of different wavelengths. SolarstormWatch, a citizen science project through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England

predicts the solar storm from the larger flare to reach Earth at 15:00 UTC on August 5, 2011, and also predict direct hit on Earth.

Solar storms are a concern if they hit Earth directly since under the right conditions, they can create extra electrical currents in Earth's magnetosphere. The electrical power grid is vulnerable to any extra currents, which can infiltrate high-voltage transmission lines, causing transformers to overheat and possibly burn out.

Check SpaceWeather.com and the [National Weather Service's Space Weather Prediction Center](#) for more information.

Source: [Universe Today](#)

Citation: Solar storm heading our way (2011, August 4) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-08-solar-storm.html>

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